

City of Newport Beach

Newport Beach City Arts Commission February 12, 2009 – 5:00pm Central Library Friends Room

Convened at 5:05pm

Call To Order and Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Robert Smith
Wendy Brooks
Kirwan Rockefeller, Vice Chair
Robyn Grant, Chair
Gil Lasky
Rita Goldberg
Gerald Allison

Commissioners Absent: None

Staff Present: Cynthia Pirtle, Library Services Director; Jana Barbier, Staff Liaison, Cultural Arts Coordinator

Public Present: Marie Marston

Public Comments: Arts Foundation President, Marie Marston announced a unique designer clothing sale event that will take place on March 26 – 29. She noted that this year's "Art in the Park" would take place on June 13. Additionally, in early April the Foundation was trying to set up a photography lecture with Ralph Nordstrom.

Approval of Minutes: It was MSP (Lasky/Goldberg) to approve the January 8, 2009 minutes.

New Business: Wendy Brooks announced that she had been a guest at a Baroque Music Festival event and that she had sent a note thanking Dr. Burton Karson for the opportunity.

Continued Business:

Staff Report /Correspondence - Staff report and correspondence were reviewed and filed.

Committee Updates:

Fine Arts Committee – Commissioner Rockefeller noted that the exhibition committee had met the prior week to discuss the Orange County Artist Juried Exhibition procedures and passed out a tentative schedule for the event. There was a question on purchasing food for the reception

and commissioners decided to purchase wine by the case, rather than bringing individual bottles.

Performing Arts Committee – Commissioner Goldberg noted that the performing arts committee had committed to the “Broadway Tunes” show with Kevin Spirtas in July. Staff presented an opportunity to collaborate with the City of Irvine on this year’s Shakespeare productions; i.e. presenting one of this year’s comedies in Newport and one in Irvine. Discussion ensued as to the pros and cons of this collaboration, as well as continued discussion on budgetary issues. Library Director, Cynthia Pirtle explained that all city budgets were preparing for a 2% decrease in their budgets this year. Discussion ensued as to how this might affect capital improvement projects.

Following further discussion, Commissioner Lasky made a motion to continue to present two plays (this year comedies) in Newport Beach in 2009. The Arts Commission voted unanimously to keep the two plays in Newport Beach this year.

Cultural Arts Center – Library Director Cynthia Pirtle noted that she had been attending meetings with the architects for City Hall, and stated that she was pleased to report that they had included exciting concepts for the inclusion of public art; a genre that Bohlin Cywinski Jackson has a wealth of knowledge in, and had dealt with on many past projects. It was noted that the City had asked members of the City Arts and Parks, Beaches and Recreation Commissions to attend as special guests at the next City Hall and Park Design architectural committee meeting on February 25 at 5:30pm, as they had wanted to provide input.

Commissioner Smith discussed meetings he had arranged with several organizations who loan sculpture, including the Orange County Museum of Art. Further discussion ensued as to Smith attending the City Hall and Park Design Committee meeting as a representative of the Arts Commission, along with Gerald Alison and Robyn Grant. Discussion ensued regarding the funding process for putting public art in place. Chair Robyn Grant thanked Robert Smith and Gerald Alison and noted that they both had a lot to offer regarding art and architecture.

Arts Foundation Liaison Committee – Marie Marston had already reported.

Art in Public Places/Historical Preservation Committees – Chair Grant complimented Commissioner Smith for the outcome of the Medical Arts Building preservation and noted that he had been instrumental in preserving the building. Smith noted that Arts Commissioners can read about the status of that building project online.

Commissioner Announcements: Chair Grant announced that she had just returned from Sundance (Film Festival.) Commissioner Brooks asked about receiving complimentary tickets to various organizations.

Future Agenda Items: None

It was MSP (Lasky/Rockefeller) to adjourn the meeting.
Adjournment: 6:48p.m.